



## State Representative Richard F. Ferrari

Dear Friends,

The 2005 legislative session for the most part was a good one for the 62nd District. Annual funding for local schools and road maintenance is up from last year and several grants were approved for local projects.

The grants include:

- A \$55,600 grant to help pay for a project to modify and stabilize the 20-foot high roadway embankment along the north side of Route 20 near Higley Road in Granby to prevent the slope from collapsing and causing a potentially dangerous landslide that could block the roadway.
- A \$27,500 grant for Barkhamsted that will help the town develop a state certified computer assisted mass appraisal system to provide for more accurate revaluations and improve assessment and tax collection practices. The State Bond Commission also approved an \$800,000 low-interest loan to assist Energy Beam Sciences Inc., of Agawam, Massachusetts, in its relocation to East Granby. The company is expected to create 20 new jobs within three years, with a potential for more.
- A \$50,000 grant was authorized for restoration work at Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby under legislation I supported. Old New-Gate Prison is a major economic asset that attracts thousands of tourists every year who patronize local restaurants and businesses and stay at area hotels. This grant will ensure an important part of our past is preserved and make Old New-Gate Prison more attractive and visitor-friendly than ever. Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at the Connecticut General Assembly in Hartford.

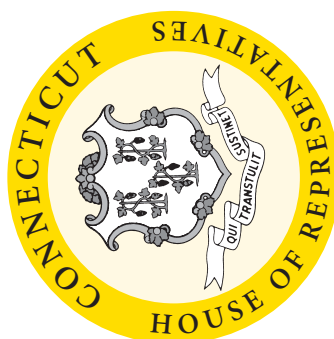
Sincerely,

*Richard Ferrari*



Rep. Ferrari joins from left, building committee members Georgia Austin, Jill Healey and Trish Morrissey after ground-breaking ceremonies for a playscape at New Hartford's Brodie Park. Rep. Ferrari helped secure a \$180,000 grant for the project.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit #3937



## State Representative RICHARD F. FERRARI Proudly Serving the 62<sup>nd</sup> District Barkhamsted ★ East Granby ★ Granby ★ New Hartford



Representative Richard F. Ferrari  
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:  
(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:  
richard.ferrari@housegop.state.ct.us

Please visit our website [www.housegop.state.ct.us](http://www.housegop.state.ct.us)

## 2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**RICHARD F. FERRARI**  
Proudly Serving the 62<sup>nd</sup> District  
Barkhamsted ★ East Granby ★ Granby ★ New Hartford





**Representative Ferrari speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.**

## PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

### Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 session, as in previous years, I worked on behalf of the average family. I know how hard people work in Connecticut, which has the highest federal, state and local tax burden per person and the largest per capita state debt as well.

### Protecting Property Rights

I voted to support Connecticut property owners in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision allowing the City of New London to seize residents' homes to make way for an economic development project. I voted for a proposal to limit the authority of state and local governments to take property through eminent domain.

### Fighting for Fair School Funding

I will continue to fight for a more equitable distribution of state education aid to our towns to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. Under the current school aid formula the state sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban communities receive as little as \$100 per student.

### Ethics Reform

The State Ethics Commission was abolished and replaced with a Citizens Ethics Advisory Board and an Office of State Ethics under an act I cosponsored.

### Reforming the State Contracting Process

Governor Rell implemented reforms I support to restore trust in the integrity of the state contracting process by ensuring contracts are awarded on their merits, not in return for bribes and favors.

### Campaign Finance

I have worked to remove special interest money from political campaigns for many years and will continue to fight for this kind of reform in the future. Strict financial limits and full disclosure are a better approach than using our tax dollars for political campaigns.

### Preserving Open Space

Funding to provide open space acquisition grants to towns totaling \$7.5 million in 2006 and \$5 million in 2007 was authorized under legislation I supported. The same measure provides \$6 million in 2006 and \$5 million in 2007 for the Recreational and National Heritage Trust Program for recreation, open space, and resource protection.

### Farmland Preservation

I voted for a measure that funds the farmland preservation program in the amount of \$8 million in 2006 and \$10 million in 2007. Under the program, the state buys development rights to farms to keep them from being used for non-agricultural purposes.

### Encouraging Research and Development in CT

I cosponsored legislation that requires the state Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish four new grant programs to prepare college students for careers in research and development and spur research collaboration between academia and industry.

### Fostering Technological Innovation

The state's economic development agencies and the University of Connecticut are required to create a network through which university scientists and business researchers can find new ways to apply research and new technologies under a law I cosponsored.

### Nurturing Innovative New Companies

I voted for a law establishing the Connecticut New Opportunities Fund to invest in newly formed Connecticut companies that cannot raise venture capital or face other barriers despite the potential demand for their products or services.

### Consumer Protection

I supported legislation prohibiting the sale of gift certificates with expiration dates to enable people who receive gift cards to redeem them when they choose to do so. I also voted for laws to help protect consumers from becoming victims of identity theft and bank fraud and to prohibit cell phone companies from disclosing a customer's cell phone number, name, or address to another person without the subscriber's permission.

### Protecting Citizen Soldiers

I voted for legislation that provides workers compensation benefits to members of the Connecticut National Guard when they are called to active duty.

### Protecting Seniors from Exploitation

A new law I supported classifies as an unfair insurance practice certain annuity sales practices where annuities are sold to senior consumers without regard to their financial situation or needs.

### Nursing Home Fire Safety

To ensure the safety of nursing home residents, I voted for a law that requires nursing homes to install fire extinguishing systems by July 31, 2007 and requires them to be installed throughout the nursing home.



**From left, Landscape Architect Daniel Colbeck, Historical Society President Zettie Shookus, Rep. Ruth Fahrbach, Rep. Ferrari, Sen. John Kissel, and 1st Selectman David Kilbon dig in at ground-breaking ceremonies for East Granby Farms Park. Rep. Ferrari helped secure a \$500,000 grant to develop the park.**



**Rep. Ferrari takes a turn in an A-10 "Warthog" during a visit to the CT Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing. Rep. Ferrari and other legislators were actively involved in the effort to keep the unit in Connecticut.**

### Preserving Eligibility for STEAP Grants

I voted for a law enabling towns to continue qualifying for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants when they no longer meet all of the program's eligibility criteria.

### Paramedic Recertification

Paramedics whose licenses have lapsed can be recertified temporarily as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and apply for renewal of their paramedic licenses or for recertification as EMTs before their temporary certificates expire under a law I supported.

### Bi-state Long Island Sound Protection

I voted for a law that creates a New York - Connecticut Committee to help protect Long Island Sound. The committee would recommend legislation to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impact of proposed industrial or other uses of the Sound's public trust resources.

### Clean Diesel Plan

I supported an act requiring the state to develop a plan to reduce the health risks from diesel pollution and to meet federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter.

### ID Requirement for Motor Vehicle Registration

The Department of Motor Vehicles can require anyone who tries to register a motor vehicle to provide satisfactory personal identification, and to obtain Connecticut driver's licenses or non-driver photo identification cards, under a new law I supported.

### Restricted Driving

Under a law I supported 16- and 17-year olds learning to drive under learner's permits now are required to have a minimum of twenty instead of eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they qualify for drivers' licenses.

### State Budget

The legislature adopted a \$31-billion two-year budget that raised spending 9 percent the first year and 12 percent over two years. The budget increases taxes on employers and on estates valued at more than \$2 million. It also violates the state's constitutional spending cap. I could not support the excessive spending and tax increases this budget mandates.